

**ABSTRACT**

The invention is directed to methods of assessing the molecular stage of a disease characterized by abnormal angiogenesis. More particularly, the invention is directed to a method of determining the metastatic potential of a tumor by determining the presence of specific molecular markers. The invention is based in part on the discovery that the key marker for determining the eventual metastasis of a tumor is vascular endothelia growth factor. Knowledge of the particular markers present in a tumor condition allows the physician to tailor cancer treatment and manage the disease condition.